CLAIMING 8 MILLION ENROLLEES, OBAMACARE IS LITTLE MORE THAN MEDICAID FOR THE MIDDLE CLASS

President and Co-Founder Twila Brase, "This 'boom' in health care coverage is really an expansion of subsidized care, and it's all about manufacturing dependency. People think they're getting private coverage in 'private marketplaces' when all they're getting is a government-issued card on a government exchange for a new type of government coverage -- a coverage that restricts access to doctors and hospitals and a coverage in which more and more doctors are refusing to participate."

While official state-by-state enrollment numbers are still rolling in, Covered California, the Golden State’s health insurance exchange, reported 1,395,929 new enrollees last week. Nearly nine out of 10 are eligible for taxpayer-funded premium subsidies, according to the Sacramento Business Journal.

Politico also reported the success of Obamacare heavily depends on the success for each of 51 state health exchanges. “No matter how many millions of people have signed up across the country,” the story read, “the law will succeed or fail separately in each individual exchange.”
“Historically, Medicaid has not been good at providing excellent medical care,” Brase said. “If you look at what Obamacare’s Qualified Health Plans are, what you see is a new version of Medicaid – Medicaid for the middle class. The details, qualifications, subsidies and coverage requirements of QHPs are all run through the federal government. People may think they’re not getting Medicaid but they are. It’s a news subsidized federal program on a sliding fee scale.”

Indeed, as noted by Forbes columnist and Manhattan Institute Fellow Avik Roy, studies show that Medicaid-covered patients fare worse than the uninsured, with significantly higher rates of death following major surgery and higher instances of certain forms of late-stage cancer. This is likely due, in part, to the fact that the best doctors often do not accept Medicaid. As Roy notes, the ACA’s “true weakness is that it endorses and expands the humanitarian scandal that is today’s Medicaid program.”

Furthermore, it’s no secret that ACA-subsidized health plans are hardly “private.” As one researcher with the Census Bureau, which collects information on health insurance data, noted, “Exchange coverage is a hybrid, partly private and partly government.”

And Douglas Holtz-Eakin, former director of the Congressional Budget Office, said the ACA, with its state-based exchanges, has basically created “a second Medicaid-style program.”

The Obama Administration hasn’t released several important facts about the latest 8-million enrollment count, such as individual state numbers, the age of the enrollees (younger, healthier patients will ultimately pay for older, sicker patients), how many have paid their premiums, how many paid the first month’s premium but not the second month’s premium, or how many were previously insured.

Celebrating its 20th year, Citizens’ Council for Health Freedom is a patient-centered national health freedom organization based in St. Paul, Minn. CCHF supports patient and doctor freedom, medical innovation and the right of citizens to a confidential patient-doctor relationship. CCHF also sponsors the daily, 60-second radio feature, Health Freedom Minute, which airs on more than 150 stations nationwide on the American Family Radio Network and 90-plus stations on the Bott Radio Network. Listeners can learn more about the agenda behind proposed health care initiatives and steps they can take to protect their health care choices, rights and privacy.

CCHF president and co-founder Twila Brase, R.N., has been called one of the “100 Most Powerful People in Health Care” and one of “Minnesota’s 100 Most Influential Health Care Leaders.” Brase, a public health nurse, has been interviewed by CNN, Fox News, Minnesota Public Radio, NBC Nightly News, NBC’s Today Show, NPR, New York Public Radio, the Associated Press, Modern Healthcare, TIME, The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post and The Washington Times, among others. She is at the forefront of informing the public of crucial health issues, such as intrusive wellness and prevention initiatives in Obamacare, patient privacy, informed consent, the dangers of “evidence-based medicine” and the implications of state and federal health care reform.

For more information or to interview Twila Brase, president and co-founder of Citizens’ Council for Health Freedom, contact Deborah Hamilton, Hamilton Strategies, 215.815.7716, 610.584.1096, DHamilton@HamiltonStrategies.com.